TALON

Special Edition

February 2009

VOLUME XVII ISSUE VI

Dear Mr. President

IN THIS ISSUE

by J. Anthony Snorgrass

Earlier this year, America experienced what has to be characterized as a monumental CHANGE with the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States. This event beckons to change American perspectives along so many tangents that it has the transformative potential to reshape how America views itself and how the world views America. This is certainly not lost in the minds of students. So following the examples of PepsiCo's Refresh Everything Campaign and CNN's Ask the President feature, the Talon Online is providing an opportunity for students to express their feeling - raw and unfiltered -in this interactive forum. Of course every precaution will be taken to keep comments in good taste and within proper publishing parameters, but other than that no governor will be placed on student's voices.

The Spring 2009 Introduction to Journalism class has taken the first step in opening this dialogue by writing brief letters to President Obama expressing how they feel about the change he represents and opening them to your review and comment. They were joined by the Strategic Presentations class who offered video commentary to the President which are featured on the Talon's YouTube channel (http://www.youtube.com/user/thetalononline). We welcome your comments to each of these personal expressions and also invite you to share yours.

Dear Mr. President,

On November 4, 2008, I placed a ballot in a box with the name John McCain checked as president. If I had to go back and do it again, I would do nothing different. I had put my faith and trust into the Republican nominee in hopes that he would lead the country the way that I thought best. The night of November 4, 2008, I watched as the rest of America chose you, his opponent. While the rest of the country believes in you, I still remain unsure. I challenge you to change my mind. I hope that in the next four years you can show me that you were the right man for the job. While I will never agree with your views on many issues, I hope to trust your character as well as your leadership. I am concerned that the change you have "prescribed" for our nation will not simply take away our current problems, but rather lead us down the wrong path and create new problems. I hope that I am wrong and that you will prove to be as great as your supporters believe you are. So again, I challenge you to prove me wrong.

Sincerely,
Tara Haskamp

Comment on my letter at thetalon-online.com

Dear President Obama,

I proudly supported you throughout your campaign trail. When the time came to cast my vote I stood in the long poll lines, waiting to prove my faith in you. Now that it is official you should be aware of what a female, college student hopes for while you are in office. I hope that you will remain the strong and passionate leader you are known to be. Because of all the corruption in our society I have no doubt that you will be pressured to sway from your ethics and morals, but for the sake of our country I hope that you will not be shook.

My greatest concern, and even fear, is that the United States of America is lead by a team of weak and manipulated politicians. You are the change this country needs and I hope you will stay true to the words of your campaign. Show them what a real politician is and demonstrate what they should be doing. I have no concerns regarding you as a person or your knowledge in leading our country. I have faith in your administration. My decision to vote for you was based on the strong beliefs and ethics I sensed you had. I feel that you are a well rounded person and the proper choice for president; it is now time to prove who you are. I am worried though, that the criticism and negativity towards you and your decisions as president will take a negative toll on your ability to lead this country. I hope that you can use all the negative abuse that will be thrown at you as fuel to make a change in the next four years.

Sincerely, Trisha Simmons

Comment on my letter at thetalon-online.com

Dear Mr. President not only do I want to congratulate you but I want you to know how much I respect your views about America. The direction that you want to lead us seems to put a smile on the face of America. So many things have gone wrong lately in our society and I will present you with a few questions. I am from the state of Michigan where the chances of finding a stable job are slim. I am scared for my father and my mother and their jobs. My father works for the state prison and our Governor threatened to take jobs from those who work there. What can you plan on doing to solve problems in states like Michigan? It seems that I have experienced both worlds, I am now currently living down in Kansas City where it seems to be you can find a job anywhere. You can tell there is a change just by the attitudes I see daily down here in Missouri. I was wondering a little more about how you could focus your attention on the ones who are truly struggling? Your big title has been change, I am very interested to find out what you plan on doing to change are Nation. In some ways I hope the change is dramatic and I hope it happens soon. When do you think we can expect things to start happening? I wish the best for you and will be cheering you along and supporting the decisions that need to be made for this country, which needs CHANGE so much.

Thank you, Austin Cole

Comment on my letter at thetalon-online.com

Layout by Nicole Drew

Dear President Barack Obama,

As you recite the Inaugural Address, sit down for the lunch, and participate in all the other activities, it is just the beginning of what is going to be an issued and troubling presidential term. Between health care, social security, stem cell research, same sex marriage issues, multiple wars, national security, immigration, energy crisis, economic recession, education, and more issues, you're plate is full, with no room for seconds.

I am a current college student, continuing my education past an associate's degree because I know the career field is slimmer for those who don't have degrees. This is a great concern of mine; I tried to pick a major/field that I knew I would like and be successful in but also one that would give me opportunity.

I sincerely hope you and your administration figure out a safe and quick way to get our men and women back from overseas. A couple years ago, the war and military wouldn't have an affect on me as it does now. I have so many friends in the military, including Navy, Marines, Army, and Air Force. Some are serving over there on the front lines or medically right now, others have already returned back home, and some are still in training. This is really close to me because I was about to join the Navy, I filled out the application, but thought an education was my better choice.

In no way am I going to say that the only reason our nation is in the state it is, is because of the Bush Administration, but I do hope do see your administration will turn it around. Whether it be the next four or eight years I think you may be just what the United States needs, we have shown you are what we want.

Good Luck,
Valerie Reed

Comment on my letter at thetalon-online.com

Fairey Arrested on Graffiti charges

Tagged for Arrest

by J. Anthony Snorgrass

Shepard Fairey, creator of the Obama HOPE posters was arrested on February 6th and accused of tagging public property with graffiti while visitng Boston to create an outdoor exhibit which includes a huge banner on the exterior of city hall. According to his lawyer, Jeffrey Weisner, this is not the first arrest for Fairey as he has been arrested before for defacing public and privated property without permission.

Fairey has come to public attention recetly as the designer of the Obama HOPE poster series that dominated President Obama's election campaign. The image used as the base for the poster has been challenged by the Associated Press as a violation of copyright issues since they own the image. Fairey has argued that his use of the photo was protected by "fair use" which allows certain exceptions to copyright laws.

Post your own letter and create your own Obomicon. Instructions can be found at www.thetalon-online.com

Dear President Barack Obama,
Change. This word means so much right now to the citizens of the United States. At first when I heard this I thought; my life is fine, I live in a comfy suburban house with two working parents, so why should anything need to be changed. After putting my selfish mind aside, I took a step back and looked at this country and saw all the needs, not wants, but needs that are not being fulfilled.

There are many hopes I have for the United States that I wish for you to fulfill, but one of the biggest has to be the economy. My concern with this issue is to not spiral down into another depression like during the 1930s. Along with most other Americans, I too want a sound economy with significantly less debt and more jobs kept in the states. My heart aches when the parents of the children at work come to me wondering how they can provide for their families when their shop gets shut down and they are left without a job, or laid off with no possible timeline for coming back.

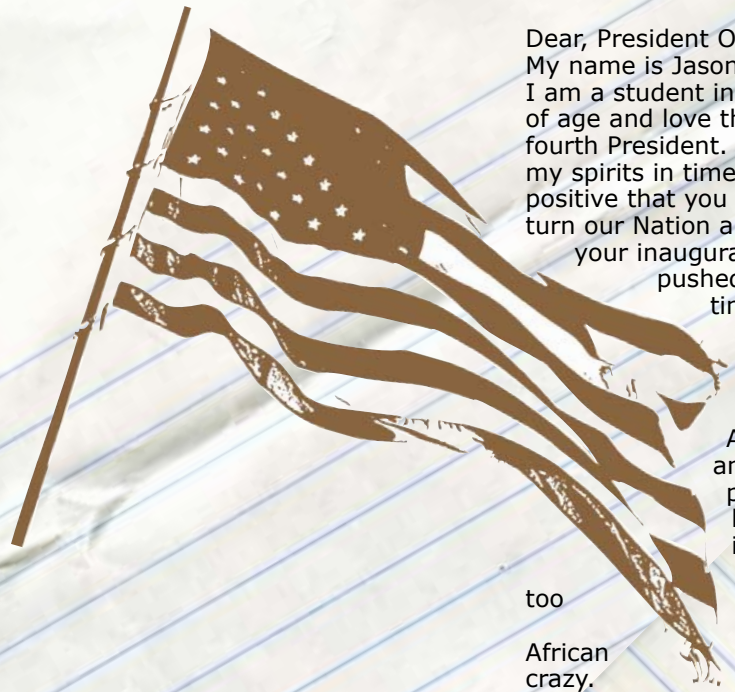
Above anything else, putting all 'hot' issues aside, I hope you continue to inspire this great nation you are now in charge of. Change does not happen in one night by one person and I hope the citizens of this country take charge and do everything in their power to help during these struggling times. During your inaugural speech you mentioned that everyone will do their part to help lift this country back up to the standings it once was. I believe now, more than ever, people are willing to roll up their sleeves and pledge to help out.

I remember something my college history professor told my class once. He said that history repeats itself, and in order to stop it from happening over and over, people need to learn from the mistakes their ancestors have made and try to make it better themselves. I truly believe you, as the president, must take this advice and apply it to your everyday decision making in the oval office. The well-being of the citizens of the United States of America are in your hands now, and I truly believe with all my heart you will do everything in your power to keep us safe from a failing economy and continue to inspire greatness.

Congratulations on your achievements, keep delivering nothing but greatness.

Sincerely,
Nicole Drew

Comment on my letter at thetalon-online.com



Dear, President Obama
My name is Jason Jacob from Kansas City, Missouri. I am a student in college who is twenty two years of age and love that you are going to be our forty fourth President. I voted for you because you lifted my spirits in times of need in my life. I am very positive that you are the right man for the job to turn our Nation around. You were quoted during your inauguration speech saying, "We have been pushed down into the dirt, and now it is time to pick ourselves up and dust ourselves off". We the people need to stay positive and united as one. You get away from "Joe the plumber" and turn to "Joe the American". You are focused on us, and how we can move on from all the problems in the past that are still hurting us today. You talked about imagination. Some frown upon this, because they think others ideas are too crazy. Well, they thought Dr. King's imagination and idea of a(n) African American being our president was crazy. What do they have to say now? The night is just at it's darkest before the dawn. We need you, I need you, don't let us down. I am positive you won't. Good Luck President Obama.

Sincerely, Jason Jacob

Comment on my letter at thetalon-online.com

Dear President Barack Obama,

I would like to express to you my feelings of your inauguration with hope and idealism. I cannot however, lie to you and say that I'm looking forward to your presidential years to come. Don't get me wrong, I have voted for you and gotten into hours of arguments disputing on your side that you are the right man for the job. I still believe you are but it just hit me after the inauguration that there will be so many struggles for you. You've already gone past one obstacle and have become the President of the United States.

After watching the inauguration today, I believe you will do great things but to be completely honest I was more worried about the safety of yourself and Vice President Joe Biden. I watched the inauguration with some students that I attend college with and we all agreed that it was a huge historical moment that we hoped people everywhere watched but we also had the same opinion of your safety. I had watched Monday on CNN Live when they were talking about all the security measures they had taken but I still felt that it wasn't enough. I'm so happy that you made it through that.

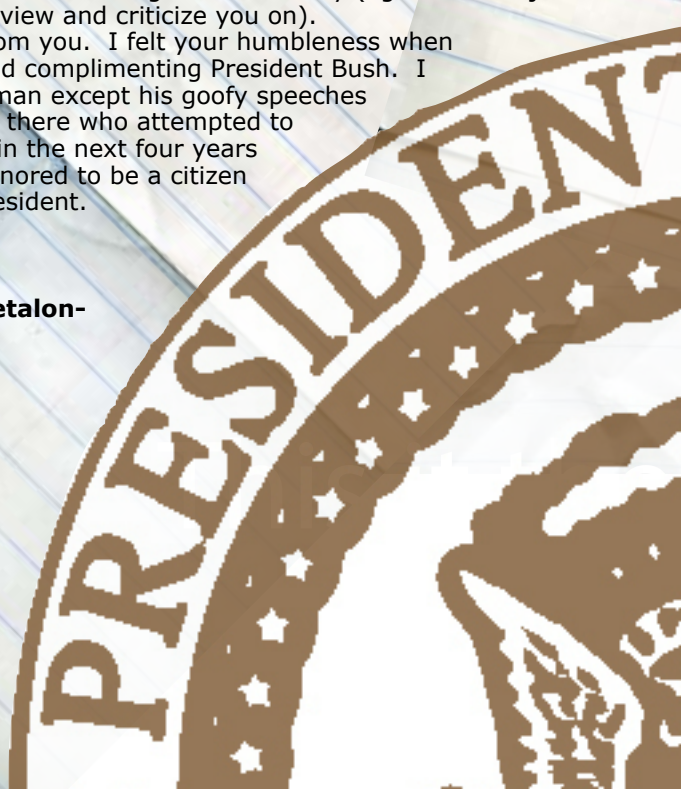
As for the rest of the inauguration, I listened to the men who prayed (I'm sorry I don't remember their names) but the last man who spoke was the one who really and truly moved me. I mean moved as in emotionally and also by who made me get up because I felt embarrassed of having tears stream down my face a little.

There has been talk of whether you or Chief Justice John Roberts "botched" the Oath of Office. All I can say is that I won't listen to the media and their opinion, and with all due respect I don't think it matters how you feel on the situation except for yourself, but I feel that you both are human beings. Human beings make mistakes and for such a great historical day to occur and people criticize you and Justice Roberts brings down the day (again here is just a little bit of what people will review and criticize you on).

I expect great things from you. I felt your humbleness when you were giving your speech and complimenting President Bush. I personally never cared for the man except his goofy speeches but at least there was someone there who attempted to care for our nation. Good luck in the next four years and I am so excited and feel honored to be a citizen of our first African American president.

Sincerely,
Courtney Ryan

Comment on my letter at thetalon-online.com



Dear Mr. President,

Hello my name is Jermaine Thomas. First I would like to congratulate you on your victory. I am both worried and optimistic about the future. I am excited that someone is in office that will look out for the American taxpayer and not just big business. I am glad you gave us hope at a dark time in our nation. You have inspired me to want bigger and greater things in life but there are some things I like to express.

First of all the economy is very upsetting to me. I know the Big 3 Auto car makers needed a bailout because if they were to go under it would be catastrophic. The Union workers not wanting to take a pay cut, was sickening to me. The banks not doing what they were suppose to do with the bail out money was another factor that rubbed me the wrong way Main street got robbed while Wall Street continued to live off the fat of the land. Why can't small Ma and Pa business's apply for some kind of assistance? They employ workers also. My boss is struggling to keep his employees but soon he will have to make some cuts. These workers like those getting bailouts have families, children in school etc.

Next is the cutting of The Missouri Access Grant that helps those going to school. I attend Avila University with the help of this very grant. If it is cut my education is in jeopardy. This is the problem not enough people are educated enough to carry the load. If we had more individuals getting an education and joining the work force, there will be more taxpayers and that would mean more money. If people are worried about how they are going to pay for school, when they are already near the end, what do you think will happen?

I would like to see a stronger focus on education and stronger focus on developing people on getting ready for the work force in which they live. Programs like Job Corps need more funding also. I am a product of a Job Corps program and the trade I learned helped me keep a job.

I know you have a lot of business to take care of but I ask you to consider what I have said.

Sincerely,

Jermain Thomas

Comment on my letter at thetalon-online.

Don't forget to vote for your favorite Obamicon at www.thetalon-online.com!

Dear President Obama,

To hear you speak is truly a privilege. Your ability to speak and convey your message to the masses is truly unique. In listening to you, it is obvious you have no intention of sugar coating our problems, and instead plan on facing them head on. You spoke up dusting ourselves off and picking ourselves up as a nation, and I could not agree more. You extend a hand to all nations big and small and make our nation a true friend to all nations as you say, "willing to un-clinch their fist." I believe your are more than just a good speaker, and your words will most certainly be followed by appropriate actions. Only time will tell though whether this is true. The economy is in a very poor state and it seems to be the main concern for you. And I think the your idea to rely on what this country was founded upon and in a way getting back to the basics of hard work and patriotism, and not glorifying those you are strictly out to make the most money, is a good start. My only concerns are some what based on those two simple words, what if. Because in regards with other countries, what if they don't unclench their fists, but instead begin to throw more punches. How will you react then? When the great words your able to speak don't work, what actions will you take then? And what if people don't except your message, and continue to live their lives based not on merit and hard work, but on greed and doing what ever it takes to get ahead. So while I appreciate your wonderful speaking and your since of rallying a nations upon the morals and hard work this nation was founded upon, I just wonder what you will do if your plans don't go exactly as you foresee them going. Will you abandon them or continue pushing them even though they appear to be ineffective? Again I guess only time will tell. I wish you the best of luck and although I did vote McCain, I feel you will do remarkable and are a refreshing change of pace of honesty and moral.

Sincerely,
Brian Garrison

Comment on my letter at thetalon-online.com

Dear Mr. President,

As many people try to describe the impact of change you have established for our country, I believe that there are not any actual words that sum up the positive vibe you present our nation with. You know the power you have and the history you made. We all see it, whether we as Americans want to or not. I am merely along of the lines of a citizen living underneath your hopes, dreams, changes, and challenges. I, like every other person living in this nation have hopes and dreams as well. We all want a better lifestyle and better world. And we have different ways and ideas of achieving our hopes and dreams for the future.

So my challenge to you is to listen. Listen to your fellow Americans, listen to the people that put you in to office; your family; your friends. Listen to the children playing outside in the park, listen to the old man sitting on the wooden bench, listen to the world. Don't just hear what we're saying; listen to how we say it. Because I believe that none of us in this world will ever know anything until will listen.

I'm holding you to this challenge whether you know it or not.

Sincerely,
Shawna Downing

Comment on my letter at thetalon-online.com

Dear President Obama,
I am writing this letter on concerns I have on the future of the United States. Now I am no politician or political expert so I was hoping you could enlighten me on some concerns I have been facing about where this country is going. I have been trying to follow your campaign as much as I could over the past
year and I have heard some of your plans on how you are going to fix the economy. Now I have heard how you are planning to decrease taxes on people who make less than $100,000 a year and increase taxes on people who make more than $ 100,000 a year. How exactly will this fix the economy? I know this will help my family, but how will this help the rest of the country? My father owns his own business in the construction business down in West Palm Beach, Florida and business has always been good on a
consistent basis until the last 3 months. Banks are holding the money that they have and not letting it out to construction corporations to break ground on projects and give work to people like my dad who are brought in as sub contractors. How will you help the banks release some of the money they are hoarding without crippling the economy? These are just a few questions and concerns that I have but I know you must receive thousands of these letters so I stuck to the main points that affect my family and I the most. I voted for you and I wish you the best of luck over the next four years. I just hope you keep to your word.

Sincerely,
Peter Kondracki

Comment on my letter at thetalon-online.com

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to congratulate you on winning the recent election. To be perfectly honest with you, I did not vote for you. I do not like your policies. Nothing against you personally though, I'm sure you are a great guy. However, with your inauguration today there are some questions and concerns I have. First and foremost, I cannot fully accept you, and the dignified office, until you prove, without a shadow of a doubt (much like how our justice system is set up), that you are a natural born citizen. Many bloggers and talk show hosts are talking about the court cases concerning your citizenship. Now you have shown a document of life birth, but those documents were even given out to people of foreign birth. Simply put your refusal to show a Hawaiian birth certificate is substantially hurting your integrity. As soon as all doubts about your citizenship are removed the country can fully be united behind one president, despite ideological beliefs.

Second off, what do you plan to do about the economy? My personally opinion is that a hands off approach would be the best way of handling the situation, but I am fiscally conservative, very unlike yourself. With all the bailouts and such, do you think that is the best way to handle such a serious matter? First it was Wall Street, then the automotive industry, who is next and when is enough actually enough? Does pumping money into the economy really stimulate it in a long term sense, or merely the short term? On that matter, do you believe the economic stimulus package you have proposed will actually fix the financial fiasco at hand, or is it merely covering the symptoms of a much larger problem that everyone has neglected to diagnose yet.

I must admit, I take my hat off to you Mr. President. I believe you have your work cut out for you. The economy is not doing great, America is trillions of dollars in debt, the American public is disgruntled and unsatisfied with the fundamentalist Right they have had for the past eight years, and the constant warfare abroad is demoralizing the public. If you can fix the problems at hand, or even help jump start a solution to the problems, in the next four to eight years, I will definitely respect you as a great man despite our ideological differences. Best of luck.
David Perkins

Comment on my letter at thetalon-online.com

Happy President's Day

by The Talon Staff

In the past few weeks, America has experienced significant historical events relating to the Presidency. First the election of Barack Obama signaled a significant shift in American politics as he was the first African American to be elected to the post. February also marks the traditional celebration of President's Day (celebrated on the 3rd Monday of February). Actually what we celebrate as President's Day is actually George Washington's birthday (Feb. 22nd), but Abe Lincoln was also born in the 12th of this month. Although Congress failed to officially rename Washington's Birthday in 1968, it did move the date so that it would fall between Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays and as can be expected - advertisers solidified the President's Day nomenclature as a commercial holiday replete with ads and promotions. This year Lincoln is also celebrating his bicentennial. Happy 200th Abe!

So in honor of this occasion, the Talon On-Line has returned after a brief hiatus with a special President's Day Interactive edition. We encourage you to visit, comment on the stories, participate in the games and vote in the polls. Also be sure to register so that you can receive the updates without interruption. Just follow the links on the blue bar on the left hand side of the page under Options.

1. What relation did FDR and Teddy Roosevelt have to each other?

2. How many presidents died in office?

3. Which president flew 58 combat missions in World War II?

4. Which president's Secret Service code name was "Rawhide"?

5. Which president gave the White House its name?

6. Who was the only president to later serve as chief justice?

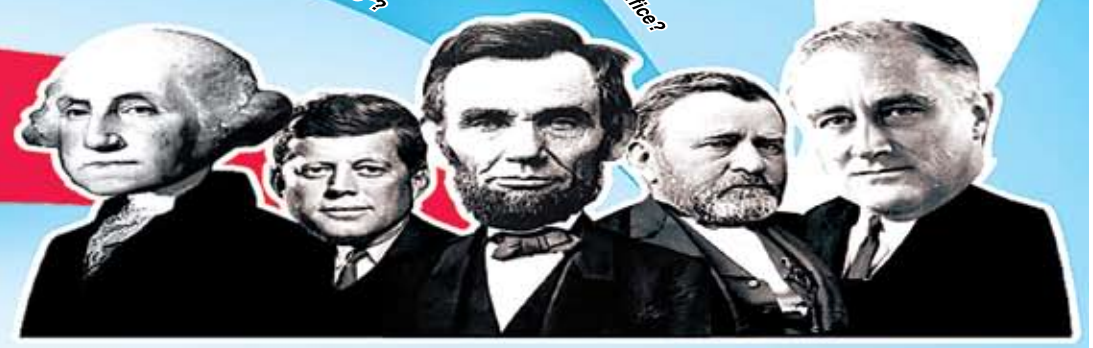
7. During the Great Depression, which future first lady received a $2.50 wedding ring?

8. How many presidents have been named George?

9. Who was the oldest president to take office?

10. Who was the tallest president, standing at 6'4"?

ANSWERS AT BOTTOM



PRESIDENTIAL FUN

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WORD SEARCH

JAdams	Fillmore	Jefferson	Polk
JQAdams	Ford	AJohnson	Reagan
Arthur	Garfield	LBJohnson	FDRoosevelt
Buchanan	Grant	Kennedy	TRoosevelt
GHWBush	Harding	Lincoln	Taft
GWBush	BHarrison	Madison	Taylor
Carter	WHHarrison	McKinley	Truman
Cleveland	Hayes	Monroe	Tyler
Clinton	Hoover	Nixon	vanBuren
Coolidge	Jackson	Obama	Washington
Eisenhower		Pierce	Wilson

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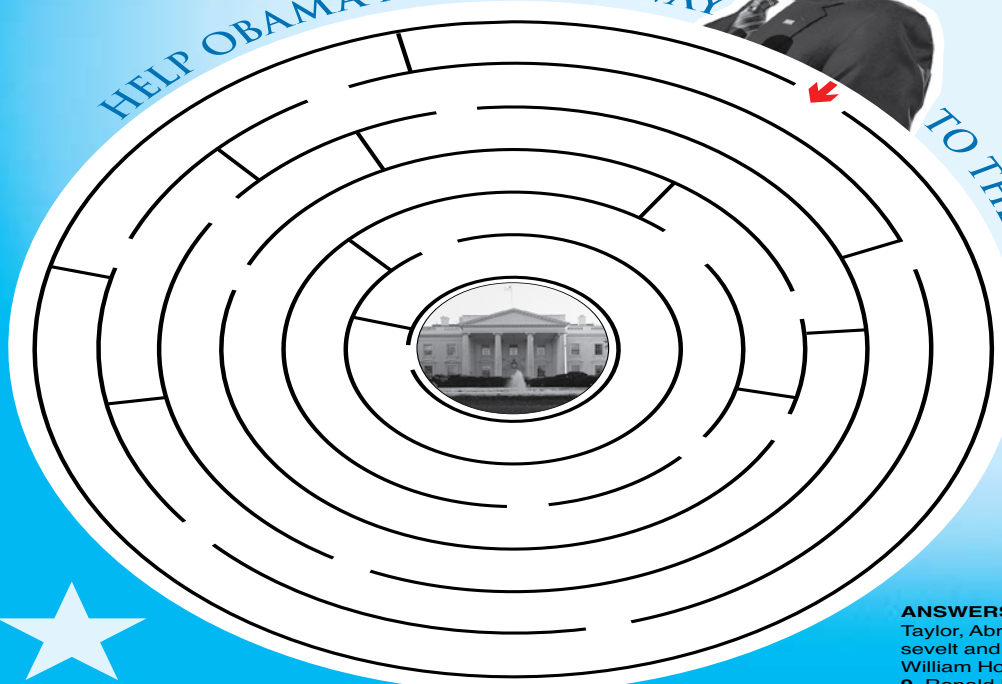
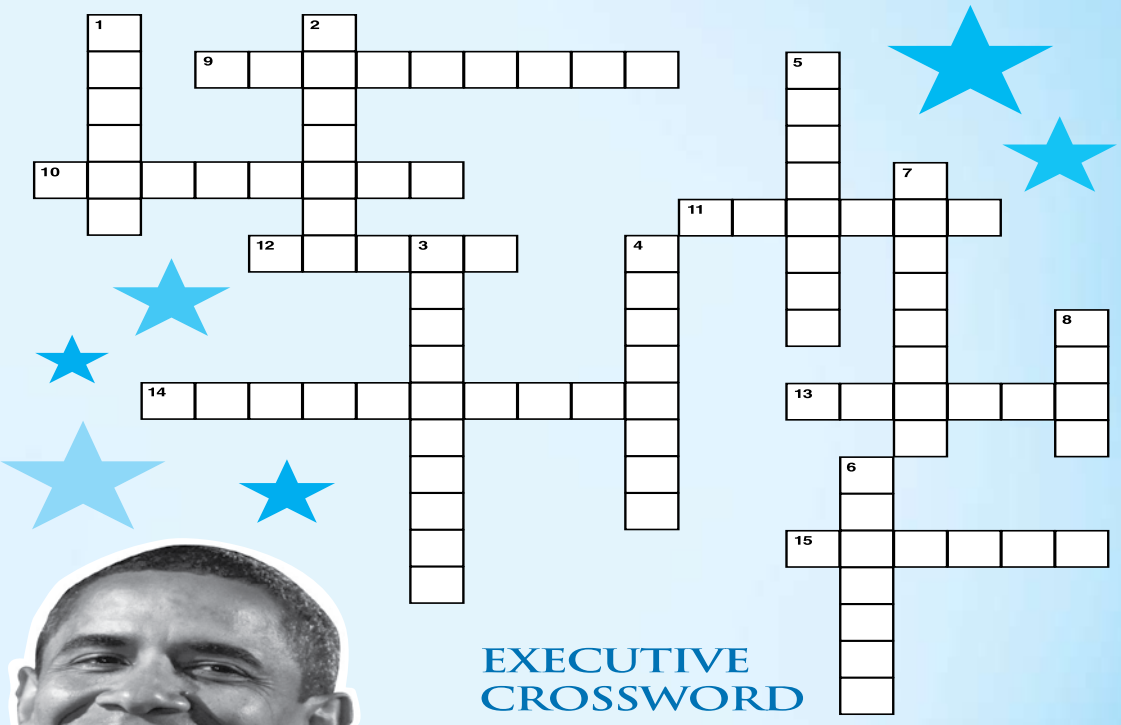
HELP OBAMA MAKE HIS WAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE



EXECUTIVE CROSSWORD



DOWN

1. Doesn't have a middle name.

2. Won a Pulitzer Prize in 1957 before becoming president.

3. Commandeered D-Day.

4. The U.S. went into war with Spain when he was in office.

5. Only bachelor president.

6. Appointed more women to cabinet positions than any other president.

7. This president served his term for only one month.

8. Played college football (and was good at it) before entering the White House.

ACROSS

9. Only one to marry and have a baby in the White House.

10. Only preacher to be elected.

11. Had an intense fondness for jellybeans.

12. Tippecanoe and _____ too.

13. Presided over the most devastating stock market crash in history.

14. This president's false teeth have become a part of American folklore.

15. Only president arrested while in office.

ANSWERS: 1. Truman; **2.** Kennedy; **3.** Eisenhower; **4.** McKinley; **5.** Buchanan; **6.** Clinton; **7.** Harrison; **8.** Ford; **9.** Cleveland; **10.** Garfield; **11.** Reagan; **12.** Tyler; **13.** Hoover; **14.** Washington; **15.** Pierce

BONUS TRIVIA

1. Who was the first president to open the baseball season by throwing out the first pitch?

A. William Harrison
B. James Polk
C. Benjamin Harrison
D. William Taft

2. How many presidents never obtained a college degree?

A. Zero
B. Three
C. Six
D. Nine

ANSWERS: 1. D; 2. D.

ANSWERS FROM QUESTIONS AT TOP: 1. Fifth cousins; **2.** Eight: William Harrison, Zachary Taylor, Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley, Warren Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy; **3.** George H. W. Bush; **4.** Ronald Reagan; **5.** Teddy Roosevelt 6. William Howard Taft 7. Lady Bird Johnson; **8.** Three — Washington, Bush Sr., and Bush Jr.; **9.** Ronald Reagan, he was 69 when inaugurated; **10.** Lincoln

PRESIDENTIAL FUN
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE